

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 10, 1987

Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 6, 1987, in the second roll call vote of the 100th Congress, the United States Senate adopted 92-0 a resolution regarding Afghanistan. S. Res. 31, reiterates several policy recommendations that were unanimously endorsed by the 99th Congress. The Senate has received no formal indication that the State Department has given any consideration to either resolution. Therefore, we are writing to bring your attention to S. Res. 31, and to ask that you give careful consideration to the recommendations of the Senate.

On two important matters, the Senate has unanimously called for a review of United States policy. Public Law 99-399, which passed the Senate on June 19, 1986, expressed the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of State should report to the President and the Congress as to whether Soviet policies in Afghanistan constitute the crime of genocide. That legislation also expressed the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should: "review United States policy with respect to the continued recognition of the Soviet puppet government in Kabul to determine whether such recognition is in the interests of the United States."

To our knowledge, no review was conducted on either matter. Consequently, once again the Senate has called for a review of U.S. policy to determine whether the continued U.S. diplomatic presence in Kabul "is in the interests of the United States and the people of Afghanistan." So far, the limited replies from the Department of State on these important matters have merely reiterated existing United States policy. In passing these resolutions, the Senate is suggesting that a review of policy is in order. We hope that such a review will be undertaken promptly.

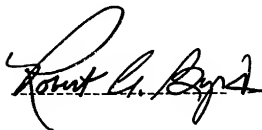
The resolution also squarely places the Senate on record regarding an acceptable timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. S. Res. 31 urges the Soviets to present an "expeditious timetable of no more than four months in accord with the stated position of the government

Honorable George P. Shultz
February 10, 1987
Page #2

of Pakistan, for the complete withdrawal of its forces." The government of Pakistan is also urged to "resist the pressure of the Soviet Union to accept anything less than such a timetable for withdrawal."

With the next round of negotiations beginning on February 25, 1987, it is important that the Senate has spoken clearly and unanimously on the tragic issue of Afghanistan. The attached resolution expresses our condemnation of more than seven years of unyielding Soviet aggression, and outlines the Senate's recommendations for United States policy.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Byrd



Lee D. Orr



Gordon Humphrey